



STAYING SAFE: A lightning alert system is up and running. Six Highland parks — Sharp Athletic Complex, Main Square, Homestead, Sheppard, Markley and Meadows parks are now equipped with devices that activate a siren/strobe light when lightning is detected within 10 miles of town.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2017

EYE ON REDEVELOPMENT

Commission looking for visionary to transform former theatre district into Planned Unit Development

As members of the Redevelopment Commission, the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer are proceeding with plans to buy up smaller pieces of land in the former theatre district.

The goal: create a single acreage adjacent to the Highway Avenue retail corridor that can be transformed into an asset for the town.

“Our plan is to buy up under-utilized and idle parcels in the redevelopment zone, tear down what’s there and look for a developer who has the ability to envision a better use of the land,” Redevelopment Commission Chairman Bernie Zemen said. “We get one shot at this and are determined to ensure whatever is built next will enhance the downtown.”

A new development that would encompass the land between Kennedy Avenue, the bike path, Condit and Garfield streets could eventually become a Planned Unit Development that is a mix of residential and commercial use.



ON THE HORIZON: The Redevelopment Commission is also setting its sights on creating redevelopment zones along north Indianapolis Boulevard across from Wicker Memorial Park and at the Public Works/Sharp Athletic Complex on north Kennedy Avenue. Stay tuned for updates!

Before that can happen, the commission intends to purchase nearly a dozen smaller parcels to complete the vision.

Council President Dan Vassar said the role of the Redevelopment Commission is to provide a swath of vacant land for the right developer.

“We are on the hunt for a visionary, an individual who has the ability, desire and drive to create a development that will be great for Highland today and well into the future,” Vassar said. “Our job is to create the blank canvas that will get it all started.”

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

Town Council President Dan Vassar would like a member of the military — Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard — to deliver the president’s address during the Memorial Day remembrance.

“These brave individuals risked everything to protect our country — to protect us,” Vassar said. “We would be honored to recognize a local veteran on Memorial Day.”

HOW TO APPLY: If you are a military veteran or enlisted soldier from Highland and would like to deliver the traditional Memorial Day address, please call Council President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or email dvassar@highland.in.gov.

A GREAT CAUSE ...

The Highland Police Department is seeking donations for its 7th grade summer camp, which reinforces skills learned in the Gang Resistance Education and Training program. Highland Rotary and the Northern Indiana Rotary District donated \$1,500, but more is needed to cover costs previously funded by grants.

WANT TO HELP? Please call Chief Peter Hojnicky at (219) 838-3184 or email phojnicky@highland.in.gov.

\$500,000 MATCHING GRANT PAVES WAY FOR SPRING ROAD PROJECTS

Spring construction season has already begun on Johnston Street between Ridge and Highway as the town cashes in on the Community Crossings Matching Grant program.

In exchange for a commitment to spend \$500,000 in town funds, the state has pledged another half million dollars to three Highland road projects, including:

- ✓ Ridge Road resurfacing from Fifth Street to just west of Cline Avenue.
- ✓ 45th Avenue reconstruction from Kennedy Avenue to Fifth Street.

- ✓ Johnston reconstruction from Ridge Road to Highway Avenue.

Public Works Director John Bach said the town will be chipping in additional funds beyond those committed as part of the grant to upgrade sidewalks at intersections on the Ridge Road project to make them ADA compliant.

During its first year in 2016, the state allocated \$150 million to local road and bridge projects. In all, 352 counties, cities and towns applied, nearly half of which were from Lake, Porter and LaPorte communities.

PUBLIC INDOT MEETING

The Indiana Department of Transportation is asking for your input on its four-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which includes replacement of the Grand Trunk Western Railroad bridge. The overpass is located just north of Highland Grove Mall on Indianapolis Boulevard. The cost: about \$6 million, all of which will be paid by the state.

WHEN: 3 to 6 p.m. **APRIL 11**

WHERE: INDOT LaPorte District office, 315 East Boyd Blvd., LaPorte

LEAF & BRANCH PICKUP

Leaf collection

A crew will be picking up leftover leaves the first two weeks of April. Leaves should be raked into a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as close to the street as possible. Please make sure there are no vehicles blocking leaf piles at, or near, your residence.

Branch collection

Crews will be running daily routes to collect branches. Place branch piles — free of any other yard debris — in front of the property, not in alleys. Please note: small handfuls of branches can be disposed of in your weekly trash bin. Town equipment is designed for tree branches only. Heavier logs and debris will be picked up every Friday. Crews do not pick up landscaping timbers, railroad ties or fencing. Yard waste can be dumped at the town garage at no charge to residents. Anything other than yard waste must be taken to the town garage where residents must obtain a permit.

INFO: Please call (219) 972-5083.



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WARD 2

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WARD 3

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WARD 4

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT ROLLS OUT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION REGISTRY

The Highland Police Department is rolling out a new service designed to save precious seconds when it matters most.

Police urge seniors and those who have a handicap or disability to be proactive.

The process is simple. Fill out a form available at the police department that lists a trusted contact. Individuals on the form should be able to respond quickly in emergency situations with a key to the residence.

“Having information that links a family member, friend or neighbor with an individual who is experiencing a medical emergency is an asset for our residents and emergency responders.

“Too often, medical personnel respond to a 911 call only to find the doors are locked and the person inside too sick to come to the door,” Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak said. “Having family or close friends available makes it more likely we can avoid using force to enter a home and gain access more quickly.”



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Emergency contact forms are available at the support services window of the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road, or highland.in.gov.

QUESTIONS? Call Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak at the Highland Police Department at (219) 838-3184 or email jbanasiak@highland.in.gov.

Likewise, Highland residents with a secure push-button key box may register its location and passcode with police.

“We strongly suggest our senior residents and those with serious medical conditions participate in the registry,” Banasiak said. In an emergency, it will help us help you.”

NEW GRAVITY-FLOW SYSTEM TO RELIEVE FLOODING WOES ALONG MARTHA STREET

Residents living along Martha Street between the bike path and Southridge Elementary School are going to get relief from persistent street flooding yet this year.

The long-anticipated storm sewer/pump station construction is a priority for the sanitary board to provide long-term relief for the neighborhood, which is adjacent to the Cady Marsh Ditch.

Public Works Director John Bach said the project will accelerate stormwater runoff into the ditch using a gravity-flow system. When ditch levels exceed the capacity of that system, the new pump station will take over.

“This project will make a big difference for the neighborhood, which is notorious for the large amount of stormwater that collects there,” he said. “This project will make a big difference.”

Contractor bids are due April 13. Construction is expected to begin mid May and conclude in October.



WATER PROJECTS

Water projects slated for the north, west and south section of town will enhance the delivery of fresh water to thousands of homes.

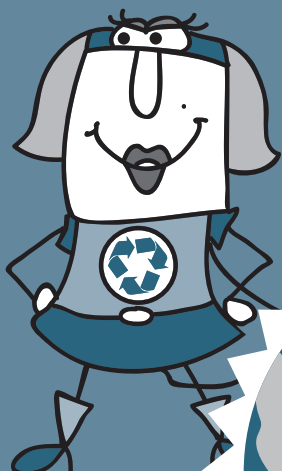
The south Kennedy project follows a major installation of a new water main that began at Kennedy and Highway Avenues, above and concluded at 45th Street.

Cost for the three projects is expected to be about \$1 million. Here's a look at what's on tap:

- ✓ Water main replacement along south Kennedy Avenue — 45th to 100th Street.
- ✓ Water main replacement along Grace Street between LaPorte and Grand avenues.
- ✓ Installation of a water line connecting the Brantwood and Meadows neighborhoods.

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycling where you can.



SPRING CLEANUP

Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews MAY 9 to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the increased collection crews. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave. **INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083.

PARK PRIDE

Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 16th annual community park clean-up day from 9 a.m. to noon **APRIL 22**. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for clean-up. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at Lincoln Center to receive your free T-shirt and lunch.

INFO: Register at Lincoln Center or call (219) 838-0114.



DRUG RECYCLING

Turn in unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 29** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call Officer Ken Balon at (219) 838-3184.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Highland is looking for local artists interested in creating an outdoor mural at 2819 Jewett, on the east side of Miles Books. The selected artist will receive a \$500 stipend and will be reimbursed up to \$700 for supplies. Visit highland.in.gov to review the entire Public Mural Call for Art prior to submitting a proposal.

SUBMISSIONS: Interested artists are invited to submit a .JPEG of their proposed mural design along with a current bio to lryskamp@highland.in.gov by **APRIL 23**.

ST. BALDRICK'S EVENT

In its fifth year, Highland's St. Baldrick's fund-raiser continues to grow while raising money for childhood cancer research. This family-friendly event features games for the kids as well as music, food and raffles for the big kids!

WHEN: 1-5 p.m. **APRIL 23**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

COST: \$10 adults, \$5 children

INFO: Visit <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/highland2017> to become a shavee or donate to the event. Like us on Facebook for the latest updates!

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Highland Athletic Booster Club is offering spring blooms at a deal too good to pass up. Buy a voucher. Buy two. Then head to Scheeringa Farms for all your spring and summer flower needs. Vouchers are available now and are good through **JUNE 15**.

COST: \$25 per voucher — the amount will ride with the voucher until all funds are used or until the promotion ends.

INFO: Purchase vouchers from the Athletic Department, online at www.HighlandAthleticBoosterClub.com, or call Tina Piech at (219) 808-9887.

COSMIC BOWLING

Call it crazy. Call it kooky. Call it fun. Join members of the Highland Athletic Booster Club for a few rounds of Cosmic Bowling while helping raise funds for all school-sponsored sports. A \$30 ticket gets you two hours of bowling with a twist, food, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic drinks are available for an additional charge.

WHEN: 7 to 10 p.m. **MAY 6**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes

INFO: Purchase tickets online at www.HighlandAthleticBoosterClub.com or call Stacy Steele at (219) 308-5943.

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5 through 18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting registration for its 2017 spring/summer season, which begins **APRIL 19**. Birth certificate required for registration. Please bring a swimsuit and towel for an in-water evaluation.

WHEN: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, **APRIL 12** and during the first week of practice **APRIL 17-20**.

WHERE: Highland High School Natatorium classroom, 41st and 5th streets. Enter through door "P" across from the softball field.

FEE: Fees vary according to skill level.

INFO: highlandhurricanes.net or (219) 595-9357

KIDS YOGA

Little yogis - ages 5-14 - will learn simple breathing techniques, yoga games, partner poses, songs/chants, crafts and relaxation. Please bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Thursdays, **APRIL 20-MAY 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$30 residents/ \$33 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$9 residents/ \$10 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348027

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home to show your products? Rent a booth space at our upcoming garage sale and comic show.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **MAY 13**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$32.10 for 10' x 10' interior space and \$53.50 for 23' x 6' wall booth.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

ACRYLIC PAINTING

Beginners as well as advanced artists learn the various techniques of acrylic painting and how to achieve the best results through still life and landscape paintings. Students required to purchase supplies on their own.

WHEN: 2-4 p.m. Fridays, **APRIL 21-MAY 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$43 residents/ \$48 nonresidents.

ONLINE CODE: 349005

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

MOTHER-SON OLYMPIC NIGHT

Mothers and sons - ages 5-13 - are invited for an evening of Olympic fun. The night includes a variety of competitions/obstacle courses and ends with a victory pizza party. Each mother-and-son duo will receive one free 5"x7" photograph. Extra photographs will be available for purchase.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Friday, **APRIL 21**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$20 residents/ \$25 nonresidents per couple, \$10/\$12.50 each additional son.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

HIGH-LOW AEROBICS

This unique cardiovascular dance-style aerobics builds energy while shaping your body, increasing flexibility and toning muscles with hand weights and various exercises.

WHEN: 6:10-6:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, **APRIL 11-MAY 18**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

2X/WEEK: \$44 residents/ \$48 nonresidents

1X/WEEK: \$24 residents/ \$26 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$8 residents/ \$9 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 300005

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

BARRE FITNESS

Lift, lengthen and define your body with this ballet-inspired workout. We will use light free weights and resistance bands to tone your arms and core muscles, while sculpting your legs, bums and tums using our studio ballet barres.

WHEN: 4:30-5:25 p.m. Fridays,

APRIL 21-MAY 12

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$22 residents/ \$24 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$9 residents/ \$10 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 300015

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

Uniquely Refurbished Region

Event features vintage, salvaged, industrial, handmade, hand-forged, modern, antique, up-cycled and repurposed goods for the home and garden. Shop furniture, vintage clothing, jewelry, garden items, artworks, pottery and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 6

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

VENDOR FEES: \$50 for 10' x 10' interior space, \$90 for 10' x 20' interior space and \$100 for 23' x 6' wall space – 7% sales tax included. Tables, chairs, cords not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114